

Fire Department

A much-needed plan has been developed into a policy in which the selectmen have adopted for the purpose of replacing fire apparatus. The cost of fire apparatus is a large investment and is a never ending process. The town of Brentwood has never had a policy for replacement of vehicles in the fire Department. Over the years the town has waited to the point that we drastically need several engines at the same time, with the average cost of an engine today at \$400,000 this creates large jumps in our taxes. If we spread the cost out over the years the tax rate will not spike up and down so radically. Truck replacement schedule should start in 2014. The Intention is to spread the cost and age of vehicles out over many years. The large apparatus would have a lifespan of 25 years in this Department. This should save on maintenance cost and downtime that these older vehicles are prone to.

As the schedule shows, in 2014 the fire Department will be requesting a Quint, which is a combination pumper/ladder truck. This will replace a 35-year-old truck that we bought used in 1979. With the versatility of a Quint, the department is able to perform many jobs at an emergency. It can pump water, fight fires as an engine as well as rescue personnel from upper floors and perform elevated operations as a ladder truck. The ladder on a Quint is more stable than ground ladders and will reach twice as high. This provides for a safer access to the second, third floor and roofs of the taller buildings in town. The ladder can be used as a light tower and also a water tower, flowing large GPM's at any elevation.

The National fire protection Association (NFPA) is the highly recommended guideline fire departments follow, NFPA 1911 recommends first due apparatus of 15 years and then back up for another 5 to 10 for a total of 25 years. We are exceeding this age by 10 years plus. In the past we have refurbished apparatus at an average cost of \$70,000 to extend the lifespan of the truck. NFPA 1912 requires these refurbished upgrades to bring a truck up to the standard. If we want to be compliant this would no longer be a cost-effective alternative.

The truck replacement schedule identifies the age of our apparatus in 2013, the year and the description of apparatus recommended to be purchased, the age of the apparatus it is replacing, and the estimated cost for the new apparatus.

Please be sure to review the Truck replacement schedule following this article

Fire Chief Kevin Lemoine

BRENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Truck Replacement Schedule

2013

2013 Apparatus	AGE
E3- 1979 Mack pumper/tanker	34 yrs
E4- 1986 Hahn pumper	27 yrs
R2- 1987 International rescue/pumper	26 yrs
F2- 1992 F350 Forestry	21 yrs
U1- 2009 F350 4 door pick up	4 yrs
E1- 2010 pumper/tanker	3 yrs

New	Replace	AGE when REPLACED	Estimated cost
2014 Quint (pumper/ladder)	E3	35 yrs	\$600,000
2020 Rescue/pumper	E4/R2	34/33 yrs	\$500,000
2028 Forestry	Forestry	36 yrs	\$75,000
2029 Utility	Utility	20 yrs	\$50,000
2035 pumper/tanker	E1	25 yrs	\$600,000

Replace ambulances every eight years, maintaining two ambulances. Funding through ambulance account

2013 Amb	A1	19 yrs	\$210,000*
2021 Amb	A2	15 yrs	\$260,000*

*equipped, stretcher, defib, stair chair